

Social Equity
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
JUNE 5 - 7, 2013 - NC STATE UNIVERSITY, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA



Education

Literacy & Social Justice Youth Development

Wednesday 2:45 pm; Panel 1

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Abstract: Join the discussion about research and theory to practice opportunities that explore children's literature as a tool to promote diversity awareness in elementary-age children and university level students. Children are less likely to engage in reading when characters similar to themselves are not represented in the books they read. The Read to L.E.A.D. (Learn. Engage. Ask. Do.) program, sponsored by the NC State University Women's Center, seeks to promote gender equity and social justice in our local community by offering a literature selection that matches the diverse cultural population of our community in a relationship-based mentoring program. Literacy, diversity, and gender equity are promoted by using literature that positively portrays myriad components of diversity and allows space for mentors and mentees to have safe, reflective conversations about diversity and equity. We are seeking collaborative opportunities with others that share an interest in media literacy and youth development as well as a commitment to advancing gender equity and social justice.